



## **Western South Dakota Outdoor Report**

Wildlife Division Region 1  
September 5, 2014



### **Region 1 Wildlife Report**

**DATE: 08/13/2014**

#### **North District** (Lawrence, Butte, Harding, Perkins, Meade & Ziebach)

**Reporting Officer:** DCOS Apland, WCO's Eastman, Mutschler, Fees & Hein

#### **Fishing Report:**

**Lawrence County** – Mirror, Coxes, Iron Creek and Roubaix Lakes have had good activity. Anglers are having success catching trout. The summer stocking rotation is in effect.

**Butte County** – Anglers are having some success catching Walleye in water depths of 5' to 15' the bite has slowed down the last couple weeks. A few walleye are also being caught on crank baits. Anglers please remember that there is a slot and only one Walleye over 18" may be kept per person. Also, Walleye between 15" to 18" cannot be kept. Boaters please remember to properly drain the boat before leaving the launch areas. Help us keep the aquatic nuisance out of our lakes!

**Perkins County** – Fishing is slowing down. Anglers are still catching some walleye and crappies but most of the fish are smaller.

**Meade County** – Anglers are having limited success at Bear Butte Lake due to recent temperatures. Activity has been very slow at Ft. Meade Reservoir.

Most fishing has slowed drastically due to summer heat and other activities. Anglers are still having luck first thing in the morning or late evening out at Durkee off the dock. Hwy 73 is closed at Howes corner for repairs. Fishing is not accessible during this time. Glad Valley dam has been repaired and back in working order.

**Ziebach** – Anglers reported having some luck on select stock dams catching bass and perch. Most anglers are using weighted jigs or minnows. It's always important to pay special attention to wind speeds when considering fishing prairie lakes and dams.

Important note: Glad Valley Dam in Ziebach Co. and Howe's Dam in Meade Co. have washed out in recent storms. Crews are currently working to correct the issues. Both lakes are open to fishing but use caution.

Howe's Dam and the neighboring Tribal Dam will be closed August 11<sup>th</sup> due to road/dam repairs.

### **Hunting Report:**

responsibility to acquire permission to hunt private land before you put in for the tag.

Antelope numbers look good for the upcoming season. Hunters please be aware that it is your re Prairie unit 9 and 15 Elk hunters are reminded they are required to acquire permission from landowners prior to the hunt, as these are private land hunts only.

As Landowners are starting to hay in Perkins County they are reporting a good number of pheasant broods.

- Hunt SAFE in Sturgis on September 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.
- HuntSAFE in Spearfish Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

Check GFP website for the many other planned events and classes for your area.

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**DATE: : 08/27/2014**

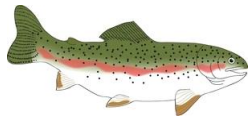
## **Central District**

**(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)**

**Reporting Officer: WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen  
DCOS McCormick**

## **Fishing Activity: Western South Dakota**

### **Black Hills area lakes and streams:**



Anglers are catching a few decent trout and some crappies size of hand on Sheridan Lake. Fish are mainly being caught on worms and some anglers catching on salmon eggs. Anglers are still catching trout from shore on Pactola and on Canyon Lake but it has slowed down a bit more. Boat anglers seem to still be having the best luck.

### **Western Prairie Lake and dams:**

The waters of the prairie have seemed to hit the late summer lull. Little angler pressure and little bits have seemed to be the story. Most dams have mossed over. Hopefully the fall bite will kick in soon. The system of rivers have been producing some catfish from time to time.

Please read the Western Lakes Regulations when fishing due to the changes of limits and sizes of fish in each lake.

[We encourage all anglers to read the 2014 Fishing Handbook for regulations.](#)



### **Wildlife:**

**Dove season starts MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2014.** Archery antelope season is in progress as well. There are few archery antelope hunters out right now. Good time to target water holes before the rut starts.

Please remember to get the 2014 Hunting Handbook and read up on new changes for this year. Also, the 2014 Hunting Atlas is out. Please review due to changes in WIA land this year in certain locations.

Fall survey is still in progress. As of now the department is surveying antelope, turkey and deer in the Black hills. The State of South Dakota Pheasant survey has been completed and you can find the results on the GFP website.

Waterfowl Numbers Pennington County August Take Season

NW - 2	NE - 1
SW - 2	SE - 1

PLEASE REMEMBER WITH DRIER WEATHER/GRASS BRINGS HIGHER FIRE DANGER. PEOPLE RESPECTFUL ON PUBLIC AREAS WITH THE FALL HUNTING SEASON APPROACHING.

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**Date: 8/12/2014**

**County: Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson**

**Reporting Officer: WCO Tom Beck Nothing new to report**

**Fishing Activity:**

**Nothing new to report**

**areas will be pretty thin. The official pheasant brood report should be posted on our website at the end of this month.**



**Hunting Report:**

**Waterfowl:** The outlook for waterfowl hunters looks good this year. While this area had little Canada Goose reproduction, goose and duck reproduction further north looks good. We should have ample waterfowl to hunt this year.

**Big Game:** I have seen a few elk tracks around the eastern corn fields so we are starting to get a few elk in from Todd County. At this point it is just a few though. There have been no more reports of dead deer. Lets hope that continues. Antelope are few and far between so far. I suspect they are more spread out than usual as the green, lush conditions

have kept them spread over more country. Many may be in the sandhill area yet as numbers are lower than expected in the areas north of the sandhills.

**Small Game:** We still have quite a few mourning doves in the area. I have been pleasantly surprised seeing all of them as I expected them to head south. At this time it looks like there will be enough around for good hunting when the season opens. I continue to see grouse and pheasant broods. The grouse broods are smaller than normal though and the pheasant broods are spotty. Where there is cover and CRP, there are birds. Where the cover isn't as good, the birds have not started to come back. If you are a cottontail rabbit hunter, this year looks like a great year. I'm seeing lots of cottontails on the roads.

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**Land Report --** The walk in hunting books should be coming out in a month or so. You will see some additions and some deletions for this area. Basically we lost a couple thousand acres of access this year. Some was because of land ownership changes while other losses were the result of hunters not appreciating what they had. It only takes a few incidents to ruin it for everyone and result in land closures. I cannot say enough times that hunters need to police themselves. If you see someone driving on walk in areas, or using the walk in areas to access private lands where they do not have permission, please let us know. Your call may insure having a place to hunt in the future.



**Custer** (South) see Pennington (West) for N. Custer

If you witness a violation please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!

**Date: 8/25/2014**

**Fishing:**



**County:  
Reporting**

**Hunting Report:**

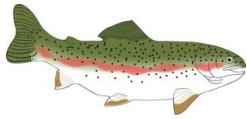


**Date: 8/25/2014**

**West Custer/West Pennington**

**Officer: WCO Jacob Ehlert**

**Fishing:**



**There has been little to no angling pressure this last week. The fall bite should be excellent very shortly.**

**Big Game:** Archery Elk opens on Monday. All of the bull elk I've seen in the last week have been out of velvet and bugles are starting. There are some awesome whitetail bucks this year. I haven't seen many nice mule deer yet, they should come out of the high country in a few weeks.

**Small Game:** Dove hunters should find a ton of doves on Monday. Remember that nontoxic shot is required for hunting on GPAs, and plugs are required in shotguns. There are a lot of rattlers out this year so be careful.

**District Report:** If you are going camping in the Black Hills Fire Protection District remember no open fires outside of designated campgrounds.

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**Pennington County - West**

**Date: District Report: Hill City**

**Reporting Officer 8/26/2014**

**bluegill, crappie and Fishing Activity:** It's a good time to catch some catfish in the Cheyenne river, the water flow has slowed down enough to keep your bait on the bottom. Grasshopper imitations for fly fishing the streams (Grace Coolidge, French creek) are still the hot ticket. Rainbow trout are biting at Sylvan, Center, Legion and Horse thief, surface fishing in the mornings and evening and on the bottom in the heat of the day seems to work well. Stockade Lake is good for pan fish, small perch.

**Big Game:** I have seen a few elk tracks around the eastern corn fields so we are starting to get a few elk in from Todd County. At this point it is just a few though. There have been no more reports of dead deer. Lets hope that continues. Antelope are few and far between so far. I suspect they are more spread out than usual as the green, lush conditions have kept them spread over more country. Many may be in the sandhill area yet as numbers are lower than expected in the areas north of the sandhills.

**County:** **Fall River**     **Date:** 8/12/2014

**Reporting Officer:** DJ Schroeder



I checked several fishermen at Angostura this past weekend. Most had the same report. The bass and crappies were biting good - - but the walleyes seem to be a little more challenging. Many anglers continue to have success pulling crankbaits and others are still catching them on crawlers. Coldbrook continues to produce decent numbers of trout, bass and crappies.

**District Report:**

Water levels are dropping a little at Angostura. Boaters should start watching for the sandbars and trees that are getting a little closer to the props.

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don't hesitate to call the TIP's Hotline or the local Sheriff's Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport

**P Hunting Report:**



**Big Game:** Surveys are looking pretty good in terms of reproduction. I am seeing a lot of deer with fawns and antelope with kids. It has been a little difficult getting accurate counts due to the amount of cover in the fields. The sweet clover is very tall. Turkey broods seem to be around average again this year. We are seeing around 5 poults per hen. We will be counting deer and elk in the near future.

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